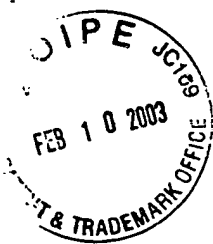


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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of:

Salkoff et al.

Application No.: 09/519,076

Filed: March 6, 2000

For: A PH SENSITIVE POTASSIUM
CHANNEL IN SPERMATOCYTES

Examiner: N. Basi

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed September 10, 2002, please amend this application as follows. A petition for extension of time to respond for two months from December 10, 2002, to February 10, 2002, is filed concurrently herewith. Also filed concurrently is a request to file a continued prosecution application pursuant to 37 CFR §1.53 (d).

Appendix A is a marked-up version that shows all changes made. All pending claims are presented in Appendix B. A reference by Schreiber et al., *J. Biol. Chem.* 273:3509-3516, 1998, is also attached as Exhibit A.